



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer  
Fire Chief

At its meeting held September 16, 2003, the Board took the following action:

57-B

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

“On September 10, 2003 an unmanned Union Pacific train began to roll on its own eastward from Los Angeles; it traveled some distance before being stopped in East Los Angeles. This is a very disturbing development in the wake of the previous Union Pacific derailment that damaged homes and terrified residents last June.

“Although Union Pacific did follow the interim notification protocols previously established with the Sheriff’s Department, Union Pacific must be held accountable for developing effective, preventive measures to safeguard residents.

“It is essential that corrective measures be immediately developed and implemented to prevent railroads from allowing unmanned train sections to de-link and run away, with the possibility of derailment and the attendant dangers to the surrounding communities. These runaway trains threaten not only adjacent residents, but also the broader region if trains are carrying hazardous materials.”

(Continued on Page 2)

57-B (Continued)

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Requested the Sheriff, Fire Chief and the Chief Administrative Officer and his Office of Emergency Management to request a meeting with representatives from Union Pacific to develop measures to prevent runaway trains and minimize their impacts should they occur despite the implementation of those measures, including all feasible actions to minimize the risks to residents associated with derailments;
2. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer and his Office of Emergency Management along with the Fire Chief to:
  - a. Coordinate a request to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad to report on its safety measures and to cooperate in the development of similar notification protocols with the Sheriff's Department; and
  - b. Request the Federal Railroad Administration to conduct a complete audit of all Union Pacific safety measures and assist the parties in the development of protocols for avoiding runaway trains; and
3. Instructed the Chief Administrative Officer to seek appropriate legislation that requires railroads to develop measures to prevent future runaway trains and minimize the associated risks to County residents.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

County Counsel

Administrator, Office of Emergency Management

Letter sent to:

Sheriff